

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Applicant is appreciative to Examiners Chang and Joo for the courtesy extended to his undersigned representative during the personal interview of November 2, 2006. At the interview, Applicant's representative provided a summary of the subject matter described in the present application, as well as the manner in which that subject matter differed from the disclosure of published application US 2004/0249814 to Navarre et al. During the interview, the Examiner suggested that Applicant amend claims 5-7 into the independent claims and clarify the function of the context data structure in order to more clearly distinguish Applicant's inventive subject matter over Navarre. The discussion of the interview is more fully reflected in the following remarks.

Prior to the above amendment, claims 1-18 were pending in the present application. Of these, claims 11-18 have been cancelled above without prejudice. In addition, the limitations of dependent claims 5-7 have been incorporated into independent

claim 1 as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, dependent claims 5-7 have also been cancelled above.

Claims 8-10 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. As noted above, dependent claim 12 has been cancelled by this amendment. Accordingly, the rejection of this claim is believed to be moot.

Regarding claim 8, the Office Action states that it is unclear as to which message "said second message" is referring. By the above amendment, step (i) of claim 8 has been amended to recite "said second response message" rather than said second message. It is believed that this amendment should overcome the rejection.

Regarding the rejections based on prior art, the rejection of claims 11-18 is believed to be moot because these claims have been cancelled by this amendment. The remaining claims were rejected based on Navarre, either alone or in combination with U.S. Pat. No. 5,706,516 to Chang et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,108,649 to Young et al. or U.S. Pat. No. 5,329,619 to Page et al. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

As noted above, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claims 5-7. In addition,

the claim has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the function of the context data structure. In this regard, step (c) of claim 1 indicates that the context data structure is organizationally independent of the first message format and contains data elements indicative of the transaction request. Furthermore, step (d) of claim 1 has been amended to indicate that the context data structure is routed to an appropriate service system through application of topological configuration objects to a predetermined ruleset so that the transaction request can be responsively fulfilled by acting upon the context data structure. In addition, claim 1 now recites that the topological configuration objects are modifiable independently of the ruleset.

Support for the amendments to claim 1 are found in dependent claims 5-7 as originally filed. Further support for the amendments regarding the context data structure can be found at least in the Example provided on pages 34-36 of the specification.

In Navarre, a gateway accepts a single request from a client application and converts the request into the appropriate data access transactions, which are transmitted to targeted

server applications. Navarre, ¶ 0008. The gateway then receives a set of responses from the respective server applications. The results returned from the server application are parsed and placed in a common message structure. Navarre, ¶ 0013.

It will be appreciated that the request message sent by the requesting application in Navarre cannot be an arbitrary collection of data elements. Rather, it is in a format that is defined by the gateway. The application which requests data records and the application from which the data records are requested must be written or modified to adhere to those rules.

It can thus be seen that Navarre is limited to data retrieval. Moreover, the Navarre system requires an intermediate gateway in order to aggregate the database lookups. In addition, the request message from the requesting application must be in a format predefined by the gateway.

This is in contrast to the subject matter of claim 1, which is not limited to data retrieval. In addition, there is no requirement to modify the requesting application. Instead, the method of claim 1 presupposes that other systems exist which use stream-based communication systems implementing fixed format

messages. The message is read by an appropriate interface and placed in "context" (i.e., the context data structure). As required by the claim, the context data structure is organizationally independent of the message format. In fact, the context data structure is an internally universal format which may be referenced, modified and extended.

It can thus be seen that the subject matter of claim 1 is distinguishable over the Navarre reference applied in the Office Action. The various secondary references do nothing to overcome the deficiencies of Navarre. It is thus submitted that independent claim 1 and all claims dependent thereon are in condition for allowance.

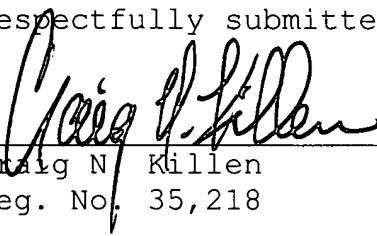
Various dependent claims in the present application serve to further limit and define the inventive subject matter set forth in the claims from which they depend. For at least the reasons stated above plus the additional limitations they present, each of these dependent claims is believed to be fully patentable over the prior art.

Inasmuch as all outstanding issues raised by the Examiner have been addressed, it is submitted that the present application, including claims 1-4 and 8-10 is in condition for

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allowance, and action to such effect is respectfully requested.
The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned should any
minor issues remain after consideration of the present
amendment, to permit early resolution of same.

Respectfully submitted,



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